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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

(Rationalised Report according to the Notice of the President of the EPO published in the OJ11/2001)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION	ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)			
2127-43 MIS:ib			ity date (day month year)		
International application No.	International filing date (day)	,,			
PCT/CA03/01209	19/08/2003	20/	/08/2002		
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC					
B22D11/11					
Applicant					
ABB INC. et al.					
This international preliminary example Authority and is transmitted to the	e applicant according to rations.		Preliminary Examining		
2. This REPORT consists of a total of sheets, including this cover sheet.					
This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).					
These annexes consists of a total of sheets.					
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:					
I X Basis of the report					
II Priority					
III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability					
IV Lack of unity of invention V X Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement					
Citations and explanations support and					
VI Certain documents cited					
VII Certain defects in the international application					
VIII Certain observations on the international application					
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Date of submission of the demand	D	ate of completion of th			
18/03/2004		23/06/200	ophisc.		
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/		uthorized officer			
Buropean Patent Office	1	ACOBS J J E			
D-80298 Munich Tel. (+49-89) 2399-0, Tx: 5 Fax: (+49-89) 2399-4465	23656 epmu d	el. (+49-89) 2399 2828	Tropagur of fu		
Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) P204	76 (October 2002)		office europe		

I. Basis of the report

The basis of this international preliminary examination is the application as originally filed.

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability

In light of the documents cited in the international search report, it is considered that the invention as defined in the claims meets the criteria mentioned in Article 33 (1) PCT, i.e. it appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step and to be industrially applicable.